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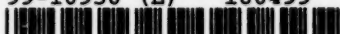
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LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 14 April 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on the coup d'état in Niger (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations



Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 14 April 1999 by the Presidency of the
European Union on the coup d'état in Niger

The European Union roundly condemns the recent coup d'état which took place in Niger, during which President Bare Mainassara was assassinated.

The European Union deplores the suspension of the 1996 Constitution, and the dissolution of the elected Parliament and of the Government, and calls upon the military leadership to set a timetable for a return to democracy as quickly as possible. It appeals to the military leadership and to the political class as a whole to show restraint.

In view of this act of violence, which represents a major setback for the country's democratic development, the European Union is forced to re-examine its cooperation with the Republic of Niger, in compliance with the mechanisms laid down in the revised Fourth Lomé Convention.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the countries of the European Free Trade Association, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.
